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MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

16 January 1959

Present: Mr. Noble Melencamp, State  
Mr. Richard Bauer, Army  
Mr. Henry Holz, Army  
Lt. R. B. Bathurst, Navy  
[redacted] NSA  
Mr. J. J. Bagnall, Chairman, CIA

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Consultants: [redacted] CIA  
[redacted] CIA  
[redacted] CIA  
[redacted], CIA

1. The eighth meeting convened at 1400 hours in Room 1121 M Building. The minutes of the seventh meeting were approved without emendation.

2. Summary of Recommendations and Action on the Far East Program

a. The title of the Monthly Information Report on Continental Southeast Asia has been changed to Monthly Information Report on North Vietnam. Reporting on Laos will be handled separately.

b. The problem of "duplication" in the North Korea reports was studied jointly with State Department and CIA. It was concluded that in the economic report duplication of information [redacted] occurred in the newspaper material. Newspapers were also considered the preponderant cause of duplication in the political material. Consequently newspapers have been eliminated as source materials for the economic report and we are presently refining specifications for the political report.

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c. FDD will seek better coverage of Indonesia by eliminating economic coverage except for plant data, transportation and telecommunications, regional economy, and selected opinions of leaders on the state of the economy. This will allow additional coverage of subjects of specific interest in other fields. There is regular referral within FDD of information on China appearing in publications of other areas of the world. Such information, if new or supplementary, is incorporated in the China report. In addition, the following journals are regularly exploited for information on the Far East: Sovetskoye Vostokovedeniye (Soviet Far Eastern Studies), Sovremenny-Vostok (Contemporary East), both published in Moscow, as well as Druzba (Friendship), published by Russians in Peiping.

d. The Branches of FDD have been given a list of special politically important days which may occasion wider reporting in the Soviet Bloc press on China.

e. An expanded Table of Contents for the Weekly Information Report on Communist China is now included in each issue. This T/C lists every item in the report under appropriate general categories.

f. Cable code numbers are now being included for lesser-known place names.

3. Near East, Africa, Western Europe and International Reports

STATE

Mr. Melencamp said that the Department finds all of the reports of considerable value ultimately. They have no suggestions for change in the Information Report on Arab States and Israel and would be sorry to find it discontinued. They are happy with the timeliness of the report and the biographic material is very useful. The Information on North Africa and Information on Africa South of the Sahara reports are important sources of information, especially since last year's reorganization. Occasionally these have biographic information also which they previously have had no hint of. The Development of Political Attitudes in West Germany is very useful to State but cannot be used regularly because of so much other material on the area.

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The Chairman said CIA would like to discontinue the latter report as the needs for which it was established in 1952 or 1953 no longer seem to exist. State offered no objection.

Mr. Melencamp added that the World Press Summary of International Communist Developments was a very useful guide and would be sorry to see it dropped. The East-West and Intra-Orbit Travel and Contacts report is used as a check list for biographic information and they are glad to have it. The Weekly Press Notes on International Conferences and Fairs is useful as a running commentary. It is not duplicating anything else that is being done and is more current.

The Chairman added that CIA would like to eliminate this report also, since many other organizations are in the business of reporting on conferences and fairs. What FDD publishes does not duplicate, but requires considerable time in checking to avoid duplication. State had no objection providing they can call on FDD for ad hoc coverage of a particular conference. FDD will still exploit for east-west movements, and transfer the reclaimed manpower to coverage of international Communism.

Mr. Melencamp then added that the Indexes of "Le Monde" and "La Stampa" were of utmost value and sorely needed by the Department, and 20-30 copies, Mr. Melencamp continued, were desired. The Monthly Information Report on Afghanistan was useful but varied in quality. This is not a reflection on the translation but simply a comment on the nature of the information appearing in the original sources.

ARMY

Mr. Holz said he contacted two branches -- Counter Intelligence Branch and Middle East/Africa Branch. The CI Branch impression of the International Communist Developments report was it is very well organized and most useful in every respect. For some places in the Middle East where Army has no collection facility, the information they get in this FDD report is very helpful and they would like it continued; Communist developments in lesser-known areas and especially information on prominent personalities is needed. The information provided in the Africa South of the Sahara publication helps the Africa desk to gather

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intelligence on threats to bases, etc. and is useful as background information particularly for biographic sketches of personnel. The third most exploited is the Information on North Africa report. There is greater coverage there and it is useful to a certain extent. They have no suggestions for improvement. The Middle East/Africa Branch is satisfied with the publications they receive. They are interested in the Arab States and Israel, and Africa South of the Sahara reports. They would like more military information in these reports, but are satisfied with what is coming through. They are interested in personalities, military gains, changes in command, etc, the same as the Counter Intelligence people. Where Army has representatives, they disregard the newspaper articles, but where there is no representation, the newspapers are the only source of information and Arab States and Israel, and Africa South of the Sahara reports are the most relied on. The International Communist Development report is of value but is not as useful to their particular work. They are not interested in Travel and Contacts, International Conferences and Fairs, and International Trade and Shipping Reports. They refer to the CIS frequently, but only need one copy. They suggested that a target date of estimated completion be included.

The discontinuance of Political Attitudes in West Germany and International Conferences and Fairs reports is agreeable with Army.

Mr. Bauer said the technical people find the International Trade and Shipping report of marginal use and the analysts cover such a wide area that they only scan through, otherwise they do not have too much use for the reports in this particular series. They have received the new CIS, Commerce, scientific and technical publication to replace the CIS. So far, it does not replace the CIS and until they prove themselves, he felt the CIS should be continued as is. He also added that it would be more useful if the "Confidential" and "Unclassified" editions were merged because of duplication. He said they wondered why there were so few requests for further exploitation of the Polish military publications and found out that the technical people have only received two issues to date; this is all a matter of distribution. The more separate pieces of paper you have the more difficult the distribution problem is. He queried if the DCI still wanted an unclassified version of the CIS for the general public. He said he felt it would be more useful as an intelligence document instead of being available to the public. The HOFORH edition should not be included. He gave comments on the CIS as it relates to the technical people. They feel the CIS is preferable for the following reasons:

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- a. The CTS uses the reference numbers of the particular agency.
- b. The CTS lists individual articles rather than complete magazines or lists of abstracts.
- c. The CTS has a much broader scope of coverage--it is mostly Russian and German in the CTS publication. The CTS covers all subjects, not just scientific and technical, and covers all areas.
- d. "Technical Translations" is designed to meet the requirements of private business and not intelligence and experience indicates that the requirements are not similar. The intelligence community is interested in more current information.

In merging the "Confidential" and "Unclassified" versions, the documents would be easy to handle. Only if it were "Secret" would there be any difficulty.

The Chairman queried as to the effect on the community if the two editions were compiled. Navy objected until CTS becomes of use. Firms having contracts with Navy could only use the unclassified; after CTS takes over it would be quite satisfactory. Army's contractors have a minimum of a Confidential clearance, and Mr. Bauer suggested "Confidential/Modified Handling" because it could then be kept in a locked desk instead of a safe. Lt. Bathurst said he would like to look into this because the unclassified edition is used so much.

Mr. Bauer then suggested that the "Confidential" part be attached with a separator between the two parts so that the "Confidential" part could be ripped off and sent on. Mr. Malencamp said it was useful to State and would like to look into it further. [ ] said NSA would be happier if it arrived in one piece, but they realize the need for two at this time.

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NAVY

Lt. Bathurst said the Political Attitudes in West Germany report is used for reference material but Navy has no objection to discontinuing it and the International Conference and Fairs report. The report of primary interest is the International Trade and Shipping which is of great value to Navy and they have no recommendations for changes. The Information Report on Afghanistan is of no use to Navy. He added

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that State would be happy to know that one person in Navy uses "Le Monde" and "La Stampa" and regrets its discontinuance. The CTS is being used more and more throughout Navy; they have no recommendation for changes.

NSA

25X1A [ ] said with few exceptions, the current program reports are quite useful and they recommend no changes in either format or content. They have no interest in the Political Attitudes in West Germany report and very little interest in International Communist Developments. The International Conferences and Fairs report at present duplicates other sources, so if it is discontinued, it is agreeable with NSA. They have people who remember the Indexes "La Stampa" and "Le Monde" which were of occasional use, but they are of negligible interest.

CIA

The Chairman said CIA finds the Arab States and Israel, North Africa, and Africa South of the Sahara reports to be very valuable and would like to see the timeliness of them improved. CIA finds the International Communist Developments report very useful and suggested the following for improvement:

- a. Greater use of Communist sources as opposed to anti-Communist sources.
- b. Reduce subjective editorializing and provide a more objective treatment of the material.
- c. Greater coverage of Communist-front activities. The Travel and Contacts report is quite valuable; International Trade and Shipping is valuable and would like it continued; the CTS is always very valuable and should be continued; the report on Afghanistan is also valuable to CIA but there is no interest in the Indexes "La Stampa" and "Le Monde." They would like to see Political Attitudes in West Germany and International Conferences and Fairs reports discontinued.

4. The Chairman presented a draft memorandum to the Chairman, Committee on Procurement of Publications on "Procurement of Critical Far East Publications" to which the Committee approved after a few changes were incorporated.

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6. The meeting adjourned at 1600 hours. The next regular meeting will be in May at which time the annual report of the Committee will be up for approval. Special meetings in the interval may be held at the request of any member.

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J. J. BACHALL  
Chairman

Enclosure :

Summary of Recommendations and Actions  
on the Western World Program

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**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS ON THE  
WESTERN WORLD PROGRAM**

1. As recommended by committee members, the weekly World Press Summary of International Communist Developments will concentrate more on True World Communist publications as opposed to non-Communist publications, will provide a more objective treatment of the material, as opposed to subjective editorializing, and will endeavor to increase the coverage of Communist front activities.
2. The bi-monthly report on the Development of Political Attitudes in West Germany will be discontinued and no other report will be forthcoming after the December issue.
3. The Weekly Press Notes on International Conferences and Fairs will be discontinued. Any East-West travel items concerning international conferences will be reported in the East-West and Intra-Orbit Travel and Contacts report. Information on future scientific and technical conferences will be transmitted by telephone to the International Conference Branch/OCF/CIA.
4. Arrangements have been made that State Department will receive the stenoids of the Indexes of "Le Stamp" and "Le Monde" so that they may reproduce the number of copies desired by the Department.
5. The Consolidated Translation Survey will continue to be published with inclusion of scientific and technical items for the next several months pending development of the ONS/Commerce publication "Technical Translations." Any future change in the CTS will be placed on the agenda for discussion.